

## **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (HA) PROGRAM**

**Mission:** DoD humanitarian assistance activities were first authorized by Congress in 1986, essentially to transport DoD excess non-lethal property and privately donated humanitarian assistance and relief material to countries in need. In FY 1996, DoD was permitted to fund a wider variety of HA activities, including using contracts and deployment of U.S. military personnel to conduct specific humanitarian projects. The program is authorized by 10 U.S.C. section 2561 and its projects are funded by the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) Appropriation, managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

Projects include the refurbishment of medical facilities, construction of school buildings, digging of wells, improvement of sanitary facilities, and training of host country personnel in internally displaced persons/refugee repatriation operations and in disaster relief and emergency response planning. The involvement of the military geographical commanders has been key to the design and execution of the projects and the success of the program.

**DSCA Responsibilities:** Advises the USDP in all program management and execution matters relating to overseas humanitarian assistance activities and foreign disaster relief and emergency response assistance issues. Also manages all programs funded by the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation.

### **HA/MA Responsibilities:**

- Responsible to the Director, DSCA for operational responsibility and execution of the worldwide DoD HAP.
- Implements and oversees the geographical commanders' management of DoD humanitarian programs and activities authorized by statute and for which funds are authorized and appropriated.
- Provide annual planning guidance to the geographical commanders by October 1 of each year for the following fiscal year and, review/approve their plans NLT the next July in coordination with OASD (SO/LIC), State Department and USAID.
- Responsible for justification, funds control, allocation and oversight of the OHDACA appropriation.
- In conjunction with ASD SO/LIC staff and the interagency, develops or reviews combatant command and other DoD and US Government agency 'out-of-cycle' proposals and obtains approval. Coordinates the execution of the project with relevant DoD and non-DoD participants.
- Responds to requests for information or guidance on HAP program management issues.
- HA/MA prepares the annual report to Congress required by 10USC2561.